



Welcome to Neighborhood Watch of Spokane County!

Thank you for your interest in starting a *Watch Group* in your area!

Staying connected to Spokane County's Neighborhood Watch Program gives you access to crime tips, educational materials, presentations, home security checks, signage, workshops, important alerts and more.

Forming a *Watch group*

- Fill out the Neighborhood Watch Captain/Co-Captain Application and mail or fax it in as soon as possible. You will only be contacted if there is a problem with your application.

Note: The application is kept solely on file with the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for communication purposes.

- Contact neighbors to see who may be interested in getting involved and check-in with them about their availability to attend a meeting.

Note: A group is usually comprised of your immediate neighbors—the homes located within your block or cul-de-sac. This may or may not include all the neighbors and may be as few as 6 homes or up to 20 or more homes.

Homeowner's Associations, rural communities, mobile home parks, and condo or apartment complexes can also form watch groups. There may be one lead contact for the entire group and then smaller sub-groups where applicable.

- Contact the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator &/or Crime Prevention Deputy to find a good date for a meeting (please come up with 2-3 dates that work with your neighbors). Contact information is at the bottom of this memo. If you're planning to meet at a local church, library, grange or other community location, you might want to check their availability first.
- Once you have a date set, encourage as many neighbors to attend as possible. Either pass out a flyer door-to-door or call or email them. You may want to offer beverages and/or snacks to encourage neighbors, but it is not required.
- At the meeting, the coordinator and/or deputy will give a short presentation on Crime Prevention & what Neighborhood Watch is. Any questions or concerns the group may have will be addressed. Materials will also be provided.

Note: As a Thank You for being involved in the program, the first 2 Reflective Neighborhood Watch Street signs are complimentary – additional signs are available for a \$15 fee. This covers the cost of manufacturing and shipping and is only used to buy more signs.

Maintaining your *Watch group*

Staying in touch is the key to a successful *Watch group*!

- Set up a contact information sheet for the neighborhood.

Note: It is helpful to Include names, street address, phone numbers, email addresses, vehicles owned, pet information, numbers to call in case of emergency and any special needs.

- Create a distribution list to notify neighbors about various concerns—via email, Facebook, Yahoo groups, Nextdoor, or other form of communication.
- Set up a phone tree list in the event of an emergency.
- Remind neighbors to report suspicious activity and any crimes to **Crime Check: 456-2233**

If a situation requires immediate law enforcement assistance, call 9-1-1

- Distribute the quarterly Neighborhood Watch Newsletter—via email or door-to-door.
- Consider having a neighborhood party for National Night Out Against Crime—held the 1st Tuesday in August. Have a BBQ, ice cream social, safety presentation, etc.

Contact the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for more information

- Create a block map of the homes in your area (not required, but helpful in an emergency) and share with the group. Remind them that this information should be respected and used solely for the purposes of the watch group.

An 8 ½” X 11” sheet of paper is best for sharing and a simple sketch is fine

- **Contact your local S.C.O.P.E. station to learn about volunteer programs available for your community**

Throughout the nation it has been shown that by building relationships with neighbors, we lower crime rates, but also improve the overall quality of life in our neighborhoods!

For more information:

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

509-385-3855 or 509-477-3189
sgriffin@spokanesherriff.org

Crime Prevention Deputies

Call 509-934-7724 for the unincorporated areas of Spokane County

Call 509-710-6904 for the City of Spokane Valley

History of Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhoods have been looking out for themselves for a long time. In 1972, the National Sheriffs' Association wanted to bring law enforcement and citizens closer together in their public safety efforts, and this is how the national Neighborhood Watch program was created.

In Spokane County, Block Watch had already existed, but in 1979, the Sheriff's Office decided to call it Neighborhood Watch in support of the national program. Both terms are used locally.

In 2011, Neighborhood Watch joined S.C.O.P.E. (Sheriff Community Oriented Policing Effort) in order to further build the connection between neighborhoods and their communities.

The goal of any watch program is to unite and educate citizens about what they can do to deter crime and have safer neighborhoods. By connecting with neighbors, watch groups have been able to improve the quality of life, and at the same time, restore pride in their neighborhood. Some groups have connected with local businesses and/or organizations to collaborate on projects such as community cleanups, park restoration, shred days and more.